



To promote the economic, social and environmental viability of Northern California by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality of our members.

**Policy Statement
Before the State Water Resources Control Board**

Petitions to Implement the Lower Yuba River Accord in 2006

January 10, 2006

Mr. Baggett and members of the Board, my name is David Guy. I am the Executive Director of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA).

The petitions before you today represent a once in a generation opportunity for the Board to advance water policy in the State of California and to send a strong signal that collaboration among diverse interests can effectively resolve complex and long-standing water disputes in California. As you know, these petitions are essential to begin implementing the Lower Yuba River Accord (Accord) in 2006 and are also important to create positive momentum for this historic agreement.

Northern California is a unique mosaic of farm lands, waterfowl habitat, spawning grounds for numerous fish species, and the cities and rural communities that make up this region. To provide water supplies and improve water quality for all of these diverse purposes, Northern California public agencies have developed and continue to refine an integrated regional water management program. (See www.norcalwater.org.) We have also partnered on numerous occasions with diverse parties throughout the state to help improve water quality, habitat conditions and to help meet supplemental water supply needs outside the region. The Accord is a central part of this integrated regional water management program.

NCWA strongly supports the Accord and urges you to grant the petitions before you today. With respect to the Yuba River, the Accord will resolve decades of acrimony and litigation on the Yuba River and provide a solid foundation for progressive water management actions to improve flows for fisheries, provide important flood protection in Northern California and promote sound local water management in Yuba County.

On a broader level, the Accord provides an opportunity for the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to carry out its mission and showcase its Strategic Plan and Watershed Management Initiative by publicly encouraging diverse parties to come together and collaborate to resolve complex water disputes.

For these reasons, NCWA strongly urges the Board to approve the petitions in a timely manner suitable to implementing the Accord so the parties can immediately begin to implement the Accord.